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Carolina country

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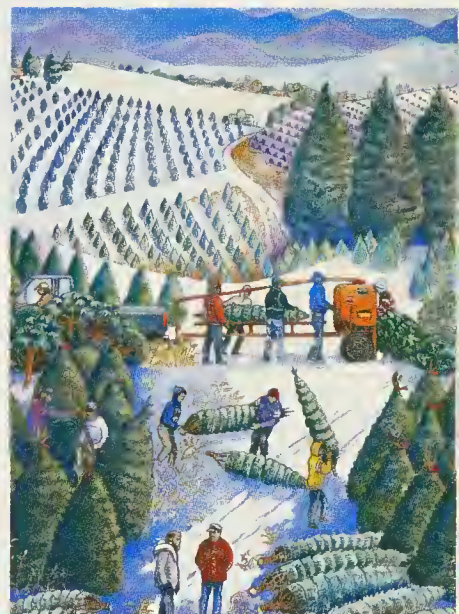
Your advice for the rest of us in the year 2000. From the Carolina Country point of view, it looks like we can say Y2K OK! . . . Also: We open the 2000 season of our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series. Send us your stories and pictures for a chance to earn \$50.

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On the Cover

"Christmas Tree Harvest" from an oil on canvas by Lenore De Pree. She and her husband converted a West Jefferson store to a studio/gallery open weekdays and Saturdays. She has a series of scenes based on North Carolina mountain life, available as notecards and prints. Prices for this print are \$65 (14 by 20 inches unframed) and \$85 (20 by 29 inches unframed). Contact De Pree Studio & Gallery, 109 N. Jefferson Ave., West Jefferson, NC 28694. Phone toll free: (877) 639-5808. Web site: www.depreestudio.com

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Local reception on satellite TV

We received the following letters about the explanation Michael E. Finney (CEO of Halifax EMC) gave in the October magazine on the question "Why Can't I See the TV Networks I Want to See? Answers to questions about your local satellite TV reception."

To see the original text, visit our Web site at www.carolinacountry.com

All cleared up

I was relieved to know that something is being done to help us get local stations on our satellite TV.

I live on a dead-end road not accessed by cable TV service, at the land's end of my county, between the cities of Norfolk, Va., and Greenville, N.C. Our aerial antenna picks up virtually only static, even on "good days." We purchased a satellite TV dish in hoping to end our network nightmare, but found out we were "served" by an [out-of-state] affiliate as you mentioned.

Your commentary cleared things up for me. (No pun intended.)

And for what it's worth, I will contact my representatives in Washington.

Thanks for the information.

Robyn Culpepper
Elizabeth City

Not so clear yet

Mr. Finney's article is interesting in that it blames the blackout of local stations on the FCC's being swayed by where the big bucks come from. I agree.

But Mr. Finney, as a representative of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative, don't you also represent members of the cable industry? And isn't the cable industry one of the biggest influencers of the FCC's keeping local stations from satellite systems?

If the cable industry backed down on their restriction, would the FCC not be more prone to allow satellite distribution of local channels? If so, should you not be addressing your cable service members rather than the general public?

Robert Frank
Concord

Mr. Finney responds:

The simple answer to your question is no – the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) does not and never has represented cable companies. NRTC represents the advanced telecommunications and information technology interests of more than 900 rural electric and rural telephone systems nationwide. Many of our members and affiliates provide direct broadcast satellite (DBS) equipment and DIRECTV programming services to their rural customer base. NRTC is the largest provider of satellite television to America's rural homes.

Over the past 13 years, NRTC has been one of the leading voices for the consumer in Washington. NRTC played a key role in securing passage of the 1992 Cable Act, the legislation that opened the door for DBS to compete against the

cable monopoly. NRTC also worked hard to ensure that the 1996 Telecommunications Act included language that preempted local zoning and homeowner association limitations on satellite systems and prevented local governments from taxing satellite television programming.

Now, NRTC is locked in battle with a number of anti-satellite forces – not the least of which is the cable television industry. The key to our success will be the support you and other satellite consumers express for the rural amendment, which would guarantee access to local television signals for all Americans.

Please call the special toll-free hotline (877)703-0849, e-mail Congress by going to www.tvaccessnow.com or write your Senators and Congressional Representative today on this critical issue.



Now it's all coming back

I'm a little late with this "thank you," but I didn't delve into the article "Tying Together the Threads of Heritage," by Renee Gannon [September 1999] until my neighbor mentioned that her mother's blanket is similar to the one pictured with the article.

I first noticed the article right after receiving it and was going to check out the similarity of the pictures with my blue-and-country-cream blanket that was my grandfather's.

Also at that time the name Harman popped off the page. [Mike and Dana Harman run Buffalo Creek Weavers in Ashe County.] My grandmother was a Harman before her marriage. Also mentioned was "Cedar Bluff, Va., on the Clinch River." I remember my grandfather talking about the "Clinch Valley," and I believe their newspaper was the Clinch Valley News, at least while I was growing up and visiting them in the country, just a few miles from Tazewell and Cedar Bluff. I have since written the Harmans in Ashe County and received a reply. It is possible my blanket was woven by Mike's ancestor, the Goodwins, and we may very well be related. (That will take some more delving into!)

I can't wait for a trip to Buffalo Creek Weavers. Sometimes big surprises take a little time to sink in. Thanks again for the article.

Tiffany Traynham Klappenbach
Mount Gilead

Misses the co-op and the magazine

Unfortunately, we are no longer serviced by an electric cooperative at our new residence.

I am enclosing \$8 for a one-year subscription to Carolina Country. I truly miss this wonderful publication. Thank you for offering it.

Tommie T. Wall
Matthews

Finest Photo?

Harold Swaim of Hamtonville objected to our publishing the photo "Hay!" in our October issue. It showed a man-sized dummy in a rolled hay bale. The actual hay bale can be seen on Hwy. 601 North in Mocksville.

"Every time I see that," Mr. Swaim said, "I think of a man I knew who got killed in a hay baler. People don't realize how dangerous a baler can be. I wish they would take that thing down."



Showing what he can do

My name is Eddie R. Hough. I am disabled with mental and physical illness. I am 53 and a bachelor who lives with my seven cats. I go to local mental health in Asheboro and to Chapel Hill for my medical.

My father built this house in 1951 and hooked up to Randolph EMC.

When I graduated from high school in 1964, I could not obtain a driver's license, fill out a job application or enlist in the military service. I had to teach myself to type and spell. I worked at a drug store fountain for 9 1/2 years and never missed a day. I also write country music songs and play guitar. I like to read about the Civil War, WWII and combat aircraft.

I have done photography since 1966 to make money and try to get out of poverty. I taught myself by reading books. I do weddings and social events. I do my own darkroom work. I use my Pentax Spotmatic camera.

I am sending a winter scene made in the 1970s of Causey's Store on Robbins Circle below my house. I would be honored if you could print it in the magazine to show what handicapped people can do.

Eddie R. Hough
4683 Robbins Circle
Asheboro, NC 27203-2852

Help Wanted

Still itching

Does anyone have as much trouble with threp as I do? Maybe it's because I live next to a cow farm, but I treat my yard, keep Frontline on my dog, and we still itch. I hope someone can help.

Janell Owen
2611 Puetts Chapel Rd.
Bessemer City, NC 28016

Louvered screens

I am looking for metal louvered screens that are approximately 18 to 24 inches high and expand to fit a window. The louvers are downward, allowing air but not rain to come in. They are not screen material, but solid metal.

F. Schweiber
P.O. Box 789
Locust, NC 28097

Boiling apple dumplings

I would like to know if anyone in the Carolina Country reading area could help me with a recipe.

My mother and Grandma used to make apple dumplings. Unlike most recipes I've encountered, they would boil them instead of baking. Does anyone know about boiling?

Catharine Roberts
9340 Hwy 306 South
Arapahoe, NC 28510

Touched

I want to thank you for running the contest about the Christmas memories ["Your Favorite Holiday Memories," November 1999.]. It made me laugh and cry. It touched me and made me realize that other folks have memories much like mine.

My parents and grandparents are gone now but I still enjoy telling my sons about our times together. My sons will never know their grand and great-grandparents, but they will know that they would have been loved and are!

Please keep up the series. Maybe I'll get time to set down and give your readers some of my favorite memories.

Thanks for all that you do all year. Have a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Annette Byrd
Dunn

Restructuring the electric industry is becoming serious business in both Washington and Raleigh

Proposals to restructure the electricity industry are making their way to center stage in both the nation's capital and in Raleigh. Issues concerning whether to open the market to greater competition, and how markets would be served, are expected to keep both federal and North Carolina government officials very busy this winter and spring.

In Washington, the House Commerce Committee is looking at a bill entitled the "Electricity Competition and Reliability Act," submitted by its Subcommittee on Energy and Power in late October. It is expected that committee chairman Rep. Tom Bliley (R-Va.) will take some action on the bill by spring.

In Raleigh, the legislative Study Commission on the Future of Electric Service in North Carolina worked earnestly in October and November studying the implications of a restructured industry here. Commission co-chairman Sen. David Hoyle (D-Gaston) said in October that he doesn't expect the commission to reach a decision on the "threshold questions" until some time in January. Those questions, essentially, are whether or not to recommend that North Carolina change regulations regarding electric service, and how any such revisions should be instituted. The soonest that any legislative proposal would be considered is May, when the General Assembly convenes.

The state commission this fall focused on the complex issue of "stranded assets," which are utility assets that probably would become uneconomical in a restructured and more competitive marketplace. Examples include generating facilities or long-term contractual obligations previously established in a regulated market when a utility's customer base was ensured.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives have a seat on the study commission, which is composed of 29 members from the public and private sectors. Three other electric utilities serving the state also have seats: Duke Energy, Carolina Power & Light, and the ElectriCities association of most municipal utilities. Sen. Hoyle co-chairs the commission with Rep. Ronnie Smith (D-Beaufort).

The cooperatives have stressed continually that all consumers should see a benefit from a restructured market in the state. This would include residential consumers — both rural and urban — as well as commercial and industrial accounts. The co-ops also have emphasized the importance of service delivery that is reliable and safe.

Rep. Smith told reporters in October that political realities require residential consumers see some benefit for substantial deregulation to make it through the legislature. "We're shooting for it to be cheaper, not more expensive — I'm talking about residences," he said.

"Sen. Hoyle agreed: 'No benefit for residential users would kill the idea.'"

The House Bill

In Congress, meanwhile, after considerable maneuvering and hearings, the Energy and Power subcommittee recommended by an 18-11 vote an amended version of the bill introduced by subcommittee chairman Rep. Joe Barton (R-Tex.).

Rep. Richard Burr (R-NC) of Winston-Salem was active throughout the deliberations and voted to approve the bill. He strongly supported issues that would allow consumers, through their electric cooperatives, to participate fully in a restructured market. Because Burr has studied the issues involved, other North Carolina Congressional members are in touch with him as a means of keeping abreast.

Glenn English, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, testified before the subcommittee in early October. He discussed the importance of recognizing in any legislation the right to form cooperatives and allow them to serve their members without new regulatory burdens. He also said co-ops, like any other utility, should be permitted to continue selling non-electric products and services.

The Barton bill, H.R. 2944, acknowledges that states are revising electric utility regulations at different paces. In its current form, most of its provisions do not supercede any laws

that states have enacted or would enact within three years of the passage of a final bill. The bill also allows utilities to do business beyond state boundaries, even if those utilities are based in states that have not deregulated the industry.

Speaking to reporters afterward, Barton said, "The policy intent is clear — removing barriers to competition while deferring state-oriented decisions to the states."

The House Commerce Committee may begin looking at the Barton bill in January. On the Senate side, Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) has introduced a draft restructuring bill. He chairs the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

— Michael Gery



North Carolina's electric cooperatives show their Touchstone Energy national brand name at various places in the new Entertainment and Sports Arena in Raleigh. Home of the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes and North Carolina State University basketball, the arena will accommodate over 160 events annually. Funded by a partnership among the City of Raleigh, Wake County, the State of North Carolina, the Carolina Hurricanes, and boosters of N.C. State University, the arena encompasses approximately 700,000 square feet and four different seating levels that will provide 19,000 seats for hockey games, 20,000 for basketball games, 21,000 for center stage concerts, and 20,500 for arena end performances.

Lineman Toby Griffin performs pole-top rescue in under 2 minutes and wins statewide competition



Toby Griffin of French Broad EMC in Madison left Raleigh with a smile on his face and a \$1,000 check in his pocket after he took top honors in the biennial Pole-Top Rescue Competition held Oct. 12.

Griffin is the fourth French Broad lineman in a row to win the competition, which is held every two years by the Job Training and Safety Department of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC). Griffin performed the simulated rescue operation in less than two minutes, 1:48.36, beating out his nearest competitor by a little more than a second.

When asked how he and his fellow linemen at French Broad continue to take top honors at the competition year after year, Toby said, "Mountain water, I guess." Griffin also won in 1995. His co-workers Rocky Fleming and Alan Grooms won in 1997 and 1993, respectively.

The Pole-Top Rescue Competition requires participants to radio an emergency call, put on climbing gear and a tool belt, climb a 35-foot pole, lower a 120-pound dummy to safety and perform lifesaving procedures. The competition is intended to focus attention on safety procedures, and rules are strictly enforced.

Twenty-four linemen participated in the event, after winning similar competitions at their local cooperatives. Prizes also went to the next four best finishers. Their names and times were: Leonard Person, Tri-County EMC, Dudley, 1:49.48; Dean Stone, Union EMC, Monroe, 1:50.52; Kim Lathan, Lumbee River EMC, Red Springs, 2:01.93; Reno Coleman, Brunswick EMC, Shallotte, 2:04:51.

"Safety is foremost in the work linemen do," said Chuck Terrill, CEO of NCAEC. "North Carolina cooperative linemen are some of the most safety-conscious and highly trained line workers in the country. They've had to demonstrate their skills and attention to safety under some of the most challenging circumstances imaginable in the last few years with the many natural disasters that have struck our state."

To assist the linemen in their continuing education and professional development, NCAEC, the North Carolina Community College system, and Nash Community College have partnered to offer linemen yet a program that will provide them with on-the-job training and the opportunity to earn a college degree. The two-year Associate's Degree program in Electric Lineman Technology offers linemen a well-rounded education from courses that cover safety codes, line construction and energy management, as well as core subjects including advanced math, English and computer science.

— Kim Tripp



Maurice Cook (left), agriculture advisor to Gov. Jim Hunt, presents an award to Chuck Terrill, CEO of North Carolina Electric Membership Corp., recognizing the state's electric cooperatives. It is the 1999 Governor's Award for Distinguished Service in Supply to the Agribusiness Industry. The presentation took place at the N.C. Agribusiness Council's annual meeting in October.

Your advice for the new year

Looking forward to 2000

As we conclude our 1999 series of "Nothing Could Be Finer" stories, we consider the new year and the new century. Of all the entries we received on the topic of "Advice for the Year 2000," none carried a doomsday message. None even warned of power failures or computer crashes.

It seems that most of the Carolina Country family is looking forward to the new century with hope, pride and a sense of humor. Thank you to everyone who sent in messages. Judging from what I've seen come from readers who all year have sent letters, who call us and e-mail us and speak to us at co-op annual meetings or out in the country somewhere, I think we're going to make out just fine.

A good many of you also advised us to continue this series in which you actually carry the ball on the plays that we call. (See the announcement on page 10.) So we also can look forward to more of your memories, ideas and pictures in this space next year. I think it gives us all a better understanding of ourselves.

— Michael Gery

Let your heart be your guide

Live each day as if it were your last. When my little brother died in an auto accident, I couldn't believe he was gone. I was comforted because I had spoken to him only hours before his death and told him I loved him.

My two daughters know how much I love them, but it would be a tragedy if their last memories of me were when I had lost my patience.

It's amazing what a perspective this gives. Priorities fall into place when you live your life with this attitude.

Listen to your heart. Let your intuition guide you and you will learn it is not often wrong. Don't be afraid to follow those feelings wherever they may guide you.

You control your destiny. Don't blame others for your choices or allow yourself to be a "victim." The choices you make determine the life you lead.

Jennifer Dasher

Wake Forest

Wake Electric member

Register and vote

I would ask each American to make it their resolution to register to vote. Make this one resolution you don't break, no matter how many others you fail to keep.

This is so important to our country and its future. Think how blessed our young people are. They can vote when they turn 18 years old, and that's all there is to it. Years ago, you had to be 21 years old and you had to be able to write a paragraph on "Why I want to vote."

Let's don't forget those dreaded poll taxes. Poll taxes were \$2.00 a year, and they came due in December. You know, around Christmas and tax time, when everyone was broke. Two dollars doesn't seem like much, but back in those days it was a lot of money. If you didn't pay you didn't vote.

Our wonderful country has come such a long way, it's a shame not to take advantage of our rights. In the year 2000, don't be "the good citizen that doesn't vote."

Dean Burke

High Point

EnergyUnited member



This is a sunflower my wife, Debra, grew in our backyard.

Like the sunflower, we must rise to meet the sun each day. Like the sunflower, we must show our beauty and compassion to each other each day, and the world can be as beautiful as the sunflower.

Paul Jones

Weddington

Union Electric member

Allow wildlife a place to live

I believe the 21st century will be the millennium of wildlife awareness with great opportunity for saving many species from extinction.

My mother, Elva Wright, age 88, has spent her life on a Lincoln County farm. Last spring she put two Canada goose eggs from an abandoned nest under a bantam,



and they hatched. It was delightful seeing the little bantam followed by two goslings larger than she. When the three-some nested for night, the bantam lifted her wings, and the babies nestled underneath. The geese were so big they actually lifted her. My mom allowed the geese to return to the wild at their own pace.

Mom gave two Canada geese back to the wild. This is the type of deed every individual can do in 2000 to care for our planet.

It seems fitting that my mom, whose life spanned this century, will be able to

welcome in a remarkable new century in which the population shows a reverence for wildlife and is aware and active in preserving our precious environment.

Ann Huss

Valdese

Rutherford EMC member

Do your best at everything you do

Do what you can to make the world a better place. To get more out of life, give more of yourself. Treat everyone you meet as you want to be treated. If you make mistakes, take responsibility. And live life to its fullest.

People spend too much time worrying, being anxious, being afraid, being depressed and angry. Spend more time thinking of others. Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring and integrity, they think of you.

Hug your children everyday and tell them you love them. Show your family how much you love them.

Do your best at everything you do. Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by what you did do.

Angela Swanson

Lenoir

Blue Ridge Electric member

Pray and meditate

I believe one of the most important things people can do in the year 2000 is to spend time daily in solitude, in a designated sacred space, praying and meditating. The future holds many challenges and opportunities. Daily prayer and meditation can help us deal with the challenges and make the most of the opportunities.

Inner peace, I believe, is essential to successful relationships and peaceful living. We need the quietness of solitude to talk

with God and the peacefulness of meditation to silence our mind so we can hear our inner voice as it guides us.

A sacred space can easily be established in any home. Candles, incense, special stones, or personally treasured objects can be placed in this space. A Bible or daily devotional guide is also beneficial. This time of solitude can be used to explore the benefits of journal writing. Keeping a journal can be therapeutic, healing, and enlightening.

Veronica Free

Seagrove

Randolph EMC member

Protect people and places

I see the year 2000 as an opportunity for change.

In eastern North Carolina's aftermath of Hurricane Floyd, even with all of the destruction and flooding, people pulled together to help others. Helping people is a goal to strive towards in the new year.

There will be advances in technology. I want to see a cure for disease such as diabetes, AIDS and cancer. Research can save people's lives.

I would like to see the preservation of natural resources. Forests are being chopped down abruptly and the destruction of the ozone layer continues to worsen.

These changes would improve life, safety and surroundings for the people of North Carolina.

Allison Warren

Murfreesboro

Roanoke Electric member

Advice from our children

Look out

There have been many dire warnings about the coming year, and some not at all pleasant. So I've decided to take pen in hand and give you all some very good advice on how to survive.

1. Do not eat anything that has purple or orange spots on it.
2. Do eat lots of spinach.
3. Try to avoid large potholes and pigs in the road. Especially the pigs, because on being hit, they immediately become large grease-spots. These spots can be extremely tricky. They are often known to hop up and waddle from one side of the road to the other.
4. Avoid all contact with the small animal known as skunk. This animal, though small and cuddly, should not be bought or handled in a pet shop. If you really want one, contact me at 1-800-skunks-make-great-pets.
5. Please refrain from all contact with my room or any other teenager's room. What lies under our beds is probably radioactive by now. I can personally say a race of little green men has originated out from under my bed.
6. Continue to eat.
7. Read Shakespeare.
8. Hold family and friends close to your heart.
9. Most of all, hold all the truth listed above to be self-evident.

Julie Wright

Zionville

Blue Ridge Electric

What can we do in 2000?

1. We can have races to the moon and above. Or even find life out there.
2. Every family can have a garden and a zebra, plus more wildlife in your backyard.
3. We might be able to talk to wildlife.
4. Peace and love will shine all over the world.
5. There will be joy in the Lord.

Lindsey Smith, age 9

Bahama

Piedmont EMC



Nothing Could Be Finer, 2000

We all have ideas, opinions and stories to tell. And most of us enjoy listening to really good ones and looking at pictures. So we at Carolina Country will open these pages for a third year to your finest stories and pictures.

The most difficult part of managing this series is putting aside entries that we can't publish. I sincerely hope that you don't decide not to send something because you presume it won't be selected, or that you give up sending a story because your first one didn't run. You never know what the judges will choose. They are very unpredictable, and they don't necessarily require high-end writing but tend to like pieces told from the heart, with a lot of North Carolina character in them. (These judges do change from time to time, and they will always remain anonymous because I want to keep them on volunteer status.)

So, we do save all your submissions, hoping that some day we can find a place for them. In fact, for January's theme, we will dip into the collection and choose a new set from your previous entries on "The Finest Place to Live in North Carolina." And for the 2000 series, we are asking permission from those of you whose stories and photos are not selected for publication in the magazine to post them on our Web site at www.CarolinaCountry.com.

As always, let me know what you think.
-- Michael Gery

Send us your best. Earn \$50.

"Nothing Could Be Finer" 2000 Themes & Rules

January

"The Finest Place to Live in North Carolina"
(From the Carolina Country archives.)

February

"How We Met"
Was it romantic?
Deadline: Dec. 23

March

"The Finest Advice for Newcomers to North Carolina"
Helpful and hospitable.
Deadline: Jan. 15

April

"The Funniest Story I Ever Heard"
Tall, short, true or otherwise.
Deadline: Feb. 15

May

"The Finest Place To Grow Up In North Carolina"
Where and why
Deadline: March 15

June

"The Kindest Thing Anyone Ever Did"
To you or anyone else.
Deadline: April 15

July

"The Worst Storm I've Ever Seen"
What happened?
Deadline: May 15

August

"Why I Like My School"
Submissions from students age 18 and under only
Deadline: June 15

September

"The Finest Photo in North Carolina"
Our annual exhibition of your photos.
Deadline: July 15

October

"My Best Fish Story"
Even if it got away.
Deadline: Aug. 15

November

"The Finest Family Recipe"
Your best recipe and the story behind it.
Deadline: Sept. 15

December

"Our Finest Family Tradition"
Passed down through the years.
Deadline: Oct. 15

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. E-mail or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
4. Tell us your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number. (If you're not a co-op member, you still can enter.) Phone numbers and addresses won't be published.
5. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
6. We pay \$50 for each submission published.
7. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
8. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com. Or through the Web site: www.carolina.country.com

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Protecting the irreplaceable

By Peggy Howe



New facade on the Chelsea Restaurant at Front and Middle streets in New Bern.

Quietly, with little fanfare, the historic preservation movement is bringing new vibrancy to proud old structures and communities throughout North Carolina. Besides the more noticeable projects, such as New Bern's colonial capital at Tryon Palace, and the ongoing recovery of Blackbeard's pirate ship the "Queen Anne's Revenge," we are seeing the return of grand plantation houses and their sheds, downtown storefronts, commercial office buildings, millworkers' housing and mills themselves.

Carolina is looking back at the historic meaning of neighborhood buildings and industrial complexes with an eye toward making them affordable, productive property that can once again contribute to a community's sense of itself.

In North Carolina, the historic preservation effort is maintained primarily by two organizations: the State Historic Preservation Office and Preservation North Carolina.

The State Historic Preservation Office, an agency of the state Department of Cultural Resources since 1984, "assists private citizens, private institutions, local governments, and agencies of state and federal government in the identification, evaluation, protection, and enhancement of properties significant in North Carolina history and archaeology." Located in a restored, turn-of-the-century house in the state government complex on Raleigh's Blount Street, the agency includes offices for archaeology, restoration, and survey and planning. David Brook is administrator.

Preservation North Carolina is a private, non-profit organization that "protects and promotes structures, landscapes and sites important to state heritage." Lauded by the National Park Service as "the premier statewide preservation organization of the South if not the nation," Preservation North Carolina marked its 60th year in 1999. Headquartered in the newly restored historic Briggs Building in downtown Raleigh, PNC offers membership to anyone interested in its mission and accomplishments, which are considerable. PNC's revolving fund — the first of its kind in the nation — has helped save hundreds of properties. Myrick Howard has been its executive director since 1978.

Even as we enter a new century, North

Carolina's initial preservation efforts, in the 19th century, saw funds raised mainly for historic monuments, centennials and Confederate cemeteries. Early in the 20th century, preservation of structures was primarily promoted by women's and patriotic groups. Letitia Morehead Walker, a daughter of Gov. John Motley Morehead, was among those who helped save Mount Vernon, George Washington's homestead in Virginia.

The North Carolina Historical Commission, formed in 1903, was the nation's third. It was charged with the "preservation of battlefields, houses and other places celebrated in the history of the state." In the first half of this century, preservation work concentrated on the finest houses. North Carolina saved many of her significant sites, including battle sites and homes of heroes. Some of these are open for public visitation. The Historical Commission continues to have a role in preservation activities by reviewing major state and federal development projects that may affect historic North Carolina properties.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Virginia's Colonial Williamsburg restoration, with its emphasis on thorough research, helped lift preservation and restoration to a truly professional level.

Preservation interest heightened in the 1970s as the nation prepared for its Bicentennial. The surge continues today as Americans appreciate finding their history not only in written documents, but in architecture as well.

"Twenty years ago," says Mr. Brook of the State Historic Preservation Office, "the finest, earliest and best homes were rehabilitated. Now, the finest houses are mostly taken care of," he says, and the work of restoring other historic structures has broadened. Individuals and groups are now working not only on historic homes, but also in former church buildings, schools and, most recently, mill villages.



Glencoe Mill, Alamance County, is undergoing restoration.

Incentives and Assistance

Because they recognize the value of keeping historic structures, both state and federal governments offer tax advantages and professional assistance to those who carry out the work. There is precious little federal grant money available for rehabilitation, Mr. Brook says, so the income tax credits are especially important incentives.

Restored historic properties that have income potential — such as conversions to offices, inns, apartments or rental property — are eligible for both state and federal tax credits of 20 percent of the project's cost. Owners who follow the procedures and meet the rehabilitation requirements can reduce their income tax bill, dollar-for-dollar, by an amount equal to 20 percent of the project's cost.

North Carolina raised its tax credit for income-producing properties from 5 percent to the 20 percent level in 1998. Also in 1998, North Carolina introduced a 30 percent tax credit for projects not intended to produce income, such as historic residences. (The federal credit remains at 20 percent for certified, non-income properties.)

To be eligible for tax credits, owners of certified historic residences who are interested in restoring them must meet a set of requirements, including investing a minimum of \$25,000 and submitting plans before work begins so they can be reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office for compliance with state and federal standards. Tax credits become effective when the renovation is complete.

The combination of the state tax credit enhancements and a healthy economy has been kind to the preservation movement in

North Carolina, says Robin Stancil Walton of the State Historic Preservation Office's restoration branch. Before January 1998, she points out, projects were averaging in the \$400,000 range. Now there are about a dozen multi-million dollar projects, including one \$24 million project in progress. She added that this year alone, the office in September had recorded \$42 million in proposed rehabilitation projects and another \$7 million in completed projects. Currently, there are more than 300 projects under way statewide.

The State Historic Preservation Office offers technical assistance and consultation during all phases of a project's planning and rehabilitation. Professionals can help with local preservation ordinances, rules and regulations. Archaeological experts and rehabilitation professionals can help date structures by looking at construction styles and identifying original features lost or changed, such as nails. They can determine, for example, the location of an original staircase or the color of paint used in a room. They can diagnose what needs attention and put owners in touch with qualified professionals. These specialists are also available to speak to local development groups, chambers of commerce or civic club meetings.

Preservation North Carolina works at matching people with projects. Its quarterly newsletter shows photographs of historic properties that are on the market. In addition, the organization publishes the most complete guide to historic sites in the state and offers several publications and videos.

Some of the more interesting projects are in former industrial properties, including once venerable textile mills and the surrounding villages that made them vital. A community hard hit by an industry's departure generally feels its spirits uplifted as the buildings the industry left behind are revitalized into space for new job development, apartments, condominiums, offices, cafes or shops. Some have attracted tourists, too.

"And the people who were part of the industry sometimes long to touch their personal heritage," says PNC's Myrick Howard. "The village houses offer opportunities for them to restore their own residences."

One such project is Edenton Mill in Chowan County, which will make 57 private houses available. Pilot Mill in downtown Raleigh already houses a charter school as well as space for businesses and residences.

Glencoe Mill, on the banks of the Haw River in Alamance County, is now under restoration, as is the massive Loray Mill near Gastonia.

In the Fall 1999 newsletter published by PNC, Mr. Howard writes about the preservation movement's role in advancing the "smart growth" concept in communities. Referring to the Gastonia mill project, he says, "The redevelopment of this one [large mill] building



Glencoe Mill houses are part of the mill area revitalization.

will spare literally hundreds of acres of suburban land from development. Once the workplace of more than 3,000 employees, it will someday be home for more than 1,000 residents as well as the site for a variety of other uses. Taxpayers will not be called upon to install the miles of new roads, water, sewer, and sidewalks that equivalent new development would require."

These projects show that preservationists' work is more than simply protecting and renewing buildings, it also involves refreshing a whole place, or as Myrick Howard puts it, "protecting the irreplaceable."

Peggy Howe is a writer in Raleigh.

For more information

**State Historic Preservation
Office, Restoration Branch**
4613 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4613
Telephone: (919) 733-6547
Fax: (919) 715-4801
Web site: www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us

Regional offices:
Asheville: (828) 274-6789
Piedmont: (919) 733-6547
Eastern NC: (252) 830-6580

Preservation North Carolina
220 Fayetteville Street Mall
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PO Box 27644
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20	Call for more information on amounts and products		11.72	11.20	18.81	17.50	30.62	28.00
21			11.72	11.20	18.81	17.50	30.62	28.00
22			11.72	11.20	18.81	17.50	30.62	28.00
23			11.72	11.20	18.81	17.50	30.62	28.00
24			11.72	11.20	18.81	17.50	30.62	28.00
25			11.72	11.20	18.81	17.50	30.62	28.00
26			11.72	11.20	18.81	17.50	30.62	28.00
27			11.81	11.28	19.03	17.71	31.06	28.43
28			11.81	11.28	19.03	17.71	31.06	28.43
29			11.81	11.28	19.03	17.71	31.06	28.43
30			11.81	11.28	19.03	17.71	31.06	28.43
31			11.81	11.28	19.03	17.71	31.06	28.43
32			11.81	11.28	19.03	17.71	31.06	28.43
33			11.81	11.28	19.03	17.71	31.06	28.43
34			11.90	11.28	19.25	17.71	31.50	28.43
35			11.90	11.37	19.25	17.93	31.50	28.87
36			11.98	11.46	19.46	18.15	31.93	29.31
37			12.07	11.55	19.68	18.37	32.37	29.75
38			12.16	11.72	19.90	18.81	32.81	30.62
39			12.33	11.90	20.34	19.25	33.68	31.50
40			12.51	12.16	20.78	19.90	34.56	32.81
41			12.68	12.33	21.21	20.34	35.43	33.65
42			12.86	12.60	21.65	21.00	36.31	35.00
43			13.03	12.77	22.09	21.43	37.18	35.87
44			13.38	13.03	22.96	22.09	38.93	37.18
45			13.82	13.38	24.06	22.96	41.12	38.93

MONTHLY RATES

Issue Age	\$50,000		\$100,000		\$250,000		\$500,000	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
46	Call for more information on amounts and products		14.35	13.65	25.37	23.62	43.75	40.25
47			15.05	14.00	27.12	24.50	47.25	42.00
48			15.83	14.43	29.09	25.59	51.18	44.18
49			16.62	14.87	31.06	26.68	55.12	46.37
50			17.50	15.31	33.25	27.78	59.50	48.56
51			18.37	15.75	35.43	28.87	63.87	50.75
52			19.25	16.18	37.62	29.96	68.25	52.93
53			20.21	16.80	40.03	31.50	73.06	56.00
54			21.26	17.41	42.65	33.03	78.31	59.06
55			14.83	12.60	22.66	18.20	46.15	35.00
56	15.53	12.99	24.06	18.98	49.65	36.96	92.31	66.93
57	16.27	13.43	25.55	19.86	53.37	39.15	99.75	71.31
58	17.15	13.95	27.30	20.91	57.75	41.78	108.50	76.56
59	18.24	14.56	29.48	22.13	63.21	44.84	119.43	82.68
60	19.68	15.31	32.37	23.62	70.43	48.56	133.87	90.12
61	21.48	16.14	35.96	25.20	79.40	52.71	151.81	95.43
62	23.49	17.01	39.98	27.03	89.46	57.09	171.93	107.18
63	25.81	18.02	44.62	29.05	101.06	62.12	195.12	117.25
64	28.43	19.38	49.87	31.76	114.18	68.90	221.37	130.81
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Dreaming of a Slushy Christmas

By Warren Dixon Jr.

It never fails. We're standing in the middle of the floor, knee deep in a snake pit of Christmas lights. There are so many pieces missing from the artificial tree that it looks like it was clear-cut. The kids have a Christmas list written out to Santa that even Bill Gates couldn't afford to fill. The tires on the car are slicker than eel stuff and you've got to drive to Grandma's Christmas day or be cut out of the will. You get paid Christmas Eve about 5 p.m. and are thinking the only things that will be left in the stores will be some Tinker Toys and for some reason the wife is expecting a little more than that. You've still got to buy the turkey, the stocking stuffers and the presents for the in-laws and you withdrew the money from the Christmas savings back in August. It's colder than all get-out and you can't stand the cold. The furnace is acting like it might go out any minute.

So what are you dreaming of?

A white Christmas, of course.

Why? There are several reasons we want a white Christmas:

1. Currier and Ives. These two jokers made snow popular during the holidays by romanticizing it. You will notice in all their prints that there is not one car in the ditch. Look at the people in those sleighs. They are not sober or they would not be smiling.
2. Snow cream. Legend has it that snow cream was accidentally discovered in the Alps when a prehistoric hunter dropped some sugar and vanilla in the snow. Whatever the case, Southerners love it, even if they have to scrape around the bird droppings to get the snow to make it.
3. We need a good snow to kill the bugs. (As though the bugs hang around when it snows.) The bugs are all in New Orleans. The only bugs the snow has ever killed were made by Volkswagen.
4. We all have sleds. It's true. We have sleds, brand new sleds that we bought when it last snowed. We all took them out to the hill at the school, slid straight down to the football field, where we all were buried headfirst in red mud. Then we took the sleds home, so we have them. In case it ever snows again.

There is an ugly rumor that we can't drive in the snow. It's not like we Southerners couldn't learn to drive in the snow. It's just that we never get a chance. And when we do, watch out.

First, we go about creating the ever-popular three-rut road. This is accomplished when the first car, heading north, drives with its left tires where the center line would be if you could see it. The cars heading south also drive with their left tires

in the center of the road. This forms a three-rut road and makes for some interesting driving as autos meet each other.

Next, we never drive over one and a half miles an hour. This is so that we can never build up enough speed to get any traction and spend most of our time spinning our wheels and sliding back and forth.

If we do get up any speed, we like to apply our brakes briskly and suddenly.

The North has snowplows and all sorts of snow removal equipment at its disposal. Most municipalities in the South have an old shovel and some ice cream salt. We do have, however, three or four guys per community who ride around drinking beer in four-wheel-drive vehicles. They will pull you out of the ditch or run you in it according to their mood.

As soon as we hear the word snow mentioned in the weather forecast, we are all obligated to report to the nearest grocery store immediately. This is because many Southerners starved to death in a blizzard during the Civil War when they came home with Moon Pies instead of stocking up on bread and milk. If you get a good dusting of snow today, you have to have a couple of loaves of bread and a good milk cow or you're doomed.

There is a law in the South that if snow is spotted, schools are to be shut down immediately. Mind you, this is if snow is spotted anywhere in a 200-mile radius of the school.

We call off schools because we don't want our kids riding home in the snow on those dangerous school buses. Then we put them on a garbage can lid, tie it to the back bumper of the pick up and pull them around on the interstate. It's great fun.

So, we're all dreaming of a white Christmas. And just as soon as it snows, we'll heat up some cider and throw a couple of logs on the fire. Except the power will be off, so forget the hot cider. We didn't get a chance to buy any cider anyway because we couldn't get the car out of the driveway to go to the grocery store. So we'll cuddle up on the couch in the dark and watch as the bird's nest in the chimney catches fire. We'd call the fire department, but the phone lines are down.

This will probably be a good time to throw the Currier and Ives prints on the fire.

"Dreaming of a Slushy Christmas" is reprinted from "Holiday Hilarities: A Collection of Holiday Humor" by Warren Dixon Jr., a syndicated columnist and member of Randolph EMC. Copies of the book are available for \$13.67, postpaid, from Five Hawks Press, P.O. Box 1203, Liberty, NC 27298.



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If you are looking for a gift or greeting card for the holiday season or other special occasions, check out the items found at the Blind Center in Washington, N.C. The center has a stock of gifts and cards made by blind and visually impaired persons. Items include earrings, necklaces, napkin rings, napkins, dolls, angels, block-printed cards and Christmas ornaments.

The Blind Center is located at 219 Harvey Street in Washington, and open Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. After December 16, please call (252) 946-6208 for holiday hours.

Ocracoke Island celebrated in video, sound and dates

The Ocracoke Preservation Society has put together a collection of items celebrating life on

Ocracoke Island. In conjunction with the brogue research done by Walt Wolfram of N.C. State University, the group developed a 22-minute video, "The Ocracoke Brogue," as well as

a CD/cassette of island stories, "Ocracoke Speaks." Also available is a Year 2000 calendar that includes old photographs of the island and its people.

Proceeds from the sale of these items go to support the continued operation of the OPS Museum. The items may be purchased at the museum gift shop or by mail order. For more information about the items and their cost, call (252) 928-7375, or write to Ocracoke Preservation Society, PO Box 491, Ocracoke, NC 27960.

Duplin County citizen puts her life into print

People who live in Duplin County know that Christine Whaley Williams is a special person. Born in Magnolia in 1915 she grew up a sharecropper's daughter, and worked in the fields from the time she could walk. Williams was later the first woman elected as Register of Deeds for the county, and held the po-

sition for 36 years. She has recently added the title "author" to her list of accomplishments. She still lives in Duplin County and works on county health studies, historic restorations and volunteers for Hospice and other community activities.

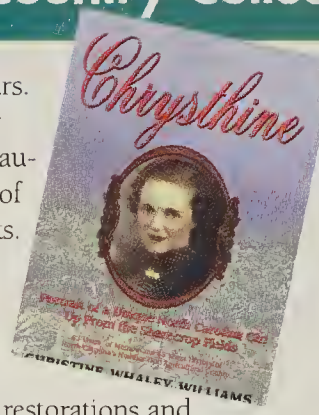
"Chrysthine: Portrait of a Unique North Carolina Girl — Up From the Sharecrop Fields," is an autobiography that shows how fulfilling people's lives can be, regardless of their backgrounds. The book, published by Pentland Press, Inc., costs \$25. Call (919) 782-0281, or write to Pentland Press, Inc., 5122 Bur Oak Circle, Raleigh, NC 27612.

Swansboro: A Pictorial Tribute

Jack Dudley, author and dentist, has published a book about his native Swansboro.

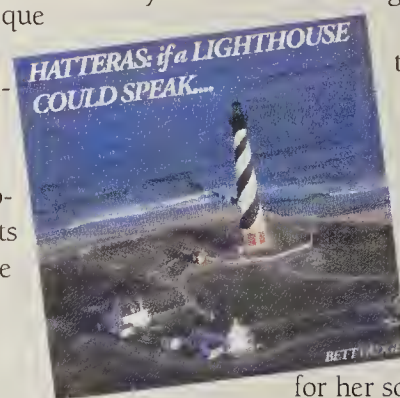
"Swansboro: A Pictorial Tribute" celebrates the life of the town and surrounding communities during the first half of the 20th century. With over 400 images of families at work, at play, on the water and around town, the volume offers an intimate portrait of Swansboro and its inhabitants of yesteryear. The pictures capture and hold in time many of Swansboro's boats, buildings, people and memorable events.

This is Dudley's third volume in the Coastal Heritage Series. He has researched, written and published "Carteret Waterfowl Heritage" and "Mattamuskeet & Ocracoke Waterfowl Heritage." Copies of the book are \$42 (includes shipping and tax) and are available from the Coastal Heritage Series, 409 North 35th Street, Morehead City, NC 28557. Or you can purchase the book at any Books-A-Million bookstore, or special order it from most eastern North Carolina bookstores.



CD sales to benefit Cape Hatteras National Seashore

"Hatteras: If a Lighthouse Could Speak," is a compilation of songs about the Cape Hatteras icon, written and performed by Raleigh musician Bett Padgett. Music from the compact disk has been used in several documentaries about the lighthouse, including ABC's "Nightline" and an educational CD-Rom produced by WRAL-TV in Raleigh.



Padgett spent time researching the light's history and talking with local Hatteras residents and family members of the last lightkeeper to gather stories about the light

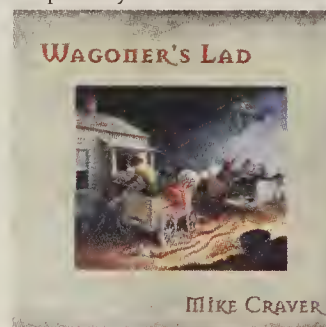
for her songs. The CD tribute is a mix of folk, pop and classical music.

The CD is available at all Borders Books & Music and from Padgett's Web site at www.bettpadgett.com. Cape Hatteras National Seashore will receive 50 percent of all profit from sales of the CD.

CD offers folk music about rural America long ago

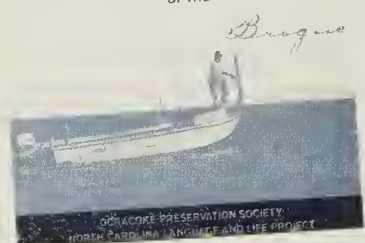
Mike Carver, the former piano player for the Red Clay Ramblers, recently released his latest compact disk, "Wagoner's Lad." The CD is a collection of original songs inspired in part by the stories of rural America in the early 1900s, specifically the farmlands and country crossroads of Piedmont North Carolina. Carver says he was primarily inspired by the saga of his grandparents' generation.

The CD is available for \$13.97 plus shipping and handling at the Internet site www.efolkmusic.com, or by sending a check or money order for \$15 to Mike Craver, 841 S. NC Hwy. 150, Lexington, NC 27295.



Ocracoke Speaks

THE DISTINCT SOUNDS OF THE "HOI TOIDE"



OCRACOKE PRESERVATION SOCIETY
NORTH CAROLINA LANGUAGE AND LIFE PROJECT



Henri Matisse and the Illustrated Book

Although known mainly for his paintings, *The Circus*, 1947, (above) is just one of Henri Matisse's original prints. In the 1930s, Matisse's work as a printmaker was primarily devoted to the illustration of books. The exhibition *Henri Matisse and the Illustrated Book*, on display through January 23 in the Bank of America Gallery within Charlotte's Mint Museum of Craft + Design, provides a look at printing aspect of his work. The free exhibit includes 45 original prints. The museum is located at 220 North Tryon Street, Charlotte. For more information, call (704) 337-2000.

Relive the spirit of the 1998 Olympic Winter Games

The large-format movie, "Olympic Glory," looks into the triumphs and tragedies experienced by the Olympic athlete during the 1998 Olympic Winter Games held in Nagano, Japan. Included are stories about ice skaters Tara Lipinski and Michelle Kwan; the American men's and women's ice hockey teams; 5-foot 2-inch Japanese speed skater Hiroyasu Shimizu; and American skier Picabo Street.

"Olympic Glory" is being shown at the Charlotte Observer OMNIMAX Theatre in the Discovery Place museum, located Charlotte on Tryon Street, between Sixth and Seventh Streets. Admission to the film is \$6.50 for ages 13-59, \$5 for ages 6-12 and ages 59+, \$2.75 for ages 3-5, and free under the age of three. The film admission is in addition to the \$3 per person price to the museum. For more information, call (704) 372-6261 or (800) 935-0553. The museum Web site is at www.discoveryplace.org.



Public TV sponsors series on the NC countryside

In October, UNC-TV began a new series called "Carolina Countryside." Hosted by Bob Garner, who previously dedicated a series to the state's varied barbecue tastes, the series takes a look at the character of the state's countryside, including agriculture, modern developments, and the many people that call the rural landscape home.

Family Fun

This Internet site gives children the gift of words, not games

Chapter & Verse is a publishing company that produces and distributes electronic books completely within the online marketing environment at www.chapter-verse.com. According to the N.C. State University news service, the Internet site provides original electronic books to children from pre-kindergarten age through high school.

The site is the brainchild of Dr. Robert L. Schrag, a NCSU professor of communication, and Sarah E. Miano, a NCSU English major. Schrag had been troubled by research findings that point to the negative effect of television, video and the Internet on children and their families. Chapter & Verse is a countermeasure to those negative effects.

The "virtual" books are original, illustrated works and can be accessed using Acrobat Reader at a cost of \$7.50 each. The books are delivered to customers as computer files, which the reader may print or read on-line. Profits from the Web site will be shared with authors and illustrators, with a portion used to solicit and develop additional titles for the site's inventory.

The co-creators believe that what children carry with them throughout their lives is a result of the books they read, or have had read to them, in their childhood. The values of children's classic literature endure. Says Schrag, "We want to offer books that help children be entertained, enlightened and educated by a wonderful story."

The site address is www.chapter-verse.com

All aboard! For dinner

A dinner train featuring railroad cars from the 1940s through the 1960s will begin operating December 10 in south-central North Carolina. The Carolina Dinner Train departs from Aberdeen, winds its way through neighboring Pinehurst, through the rural countryside of the Sandhills, then heads back to Aberdeen. The year-round operation will offer two-hour lunch and three-hour dinner trips.

Passengers will be served beverages (additional charge for drinks other than coffee or tea), a choice of four entrees, salad and dessert. Lunch price is \$36 per person, while dinner is priced at \$59. Price includes the train ride, meal, tax and gratuity. A special "meeting" car will also be available for groups and presentations.

For a schedule and reservations, call toll-free (877) 944-7245 (RAIL). For more information, write to Carolina Dinner Train, Inc., PO Box 5448, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Click, and You Shall Find

If you approach the Web as a library rather than a shopping mall, video arcade or discussion circle, you need some way of quelling the riot of information you'll find there.

Portals such as Yahoo are one attempt to make the Web more manageable, aggregating content and services in hope that you'll stick around. But you're often better off surfing beyond their narrow confines.

For some years now search sites have tried to bring order to the Web's anarchic abundance. But serving up just the information you're looking for, and avoiding the litter of irrelevancy, is a tall order. And even the best search sites penetrate only so far into the Web's awesome depths.

Some of information technology's best minds are working on this problem. Among the more interesting developments, ironically, are sites that downplay technology in favor of the human touch.

At Allexperts.com, at www.allexperts.com, you first drill down to the category of information you're interested in, such as insurance or photography. Then you select a volunteer, based upon his or her profile, to send your query to. More than 1,500 volunteers work with the site, providing answers free of charge. If you need more comprehensive service, volunteers can offer themselves as consultants for a fee.

Similar new search sites that go against the grain of increasing mechanization include XpertSite.com, at www.xpertsite.com, and ExpertCentral.com, at www.expertcentral.com.

Human help, however, does have its drawbacks.

At Allexperts.com it may take a day or two to receive your answer. Also, despite the site's name, the volunteers aren't necessarily experts. Allexperts.com says that many are professionals, but it doesn't verify their credentials.

If the people approach isn't for you, you might want to try the opposite. YourCompass.com, at www.yourcompass.com, strives for total automation. This new site tracks your searches and when you visit again alerts you to sites it thinks you're interested in before you ask. This may sound Orwellian, but the site promises not to share your personal information with third parties.

Privacy isn't the only concern people have these days about the Web. Commercialization has become the norm, and you have to be wary here with some search sites.

For instance, TitanSearch.com, a new search site at www.titansearch.com, openly promises that other sites who advertise with it will receive prominent placement in search results, "with the advertiser's page on the top three pages 100 percent of the time, and on the top page one third of the time."

People also worry about exposing themselves or their children to inappropriate material on the Web. If you search at a typical search site for the White House, among the sites it returns may be those displaying what you might see in a carhouse.

SurfMonkey.com, at www.surfmonkey.com, is a new search site and portal for kids that's designed to filter out porn and other no-no's. To use it, you download either a small add-



on program for Microsoft Internet Explorer or a proprietary browser. Ah-ha.com, at www.ah-ha.com, is another new kid-safe search site.

The popular general-interest search sites are also hard at work to improve relevancy in search results. HotBot, at www.hotbot.com, which deservedly was designated as

the best all-around search site by PC Magazine, now includes a popularity engine. Click on "Top 10 sites..." after it displays its first screen of findings.

One site that's garnered much kudos lately is Northern Light, at www.northernlight.com. It distinguishes itself by its accurate Web search results, which are free, and its full-text database of articles from newspapers and magazines, which generally cost \$1 to \$4 per article. A new feature periodically alerts you via e-mail when it finds information you've requested.

Recently much has been made about how no search site indexes the entire Web. If you're looking for very specific information, one way around this is to use a "metasearch" site, which piggybacks on other search sites and combines their results. The best overall is ProFusion, at www.profusion.com. If you're looking for information on broad topics, Yahoo, at www.yahoo.com, remains the best and most popular choice.

As testimony to how hungry people are for relevant, reliable information, when Encyclopædia Britannica recently made all of the content of its 32-volume printed set freely available online at www.britannica.com, it received so many visitors that the site became inaccessible.

Finally, to delve more deeply into Web searching itself, two good sites are Search Engine Watch, at www.searchenginewatch.com, and Search IQ, at www.searchiq.com.

Reid Goldsborough is a syndicated columnist and author of the book "Straight Talk About the Information Superhighway." He can be reached at reidgold@netaxs.com or members.home.net/reidgold.

Mountains (West of I-77)

Visions of Sugarplums

Through Dec. 31, Smyrna, TN
Sam Davis Home, holiday
decorations, (888) 750-9524

Tree Fest

Through Dec. 31, West Jefferson
Ashe Arts Center, (336) 246-2787

Food, Glorious Food!

Through Dec. 31, West Jefferson
"Taste of the arts" art exhibit, Ashe
Arts Center, (336) 246-2787

White Oak Basketmaking

Through Jan. 16, Asheville
Folk Art Center, (828) 298-7928

Christmas Parade

Dec. 2, Canton
6 p.m., (828) 648-7925

Festival of Lights

Dec. 2-31, Canton
(828) 648-7925

Appalachian Potters Market

Dec. 4, Marion
McDowell High School, claywork
craft fair, \$3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.,
(828) 652-8610

Be a Twigger!

Dec. 4, Pisgah Forest
Pisgah Center for Wildlife
Education, (828) 877-4423

Holiday Open House

Dec. 4, West Jefferson
Ashe Arts Center, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.,
(336) 246-2787

A Christmas Carol

Dec. 4, West Jefferson
Ashe Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.,
(336) 246-2787

Blue Ridge Music Theatre

Dec. 4, West Jefferson
Wayne Henderson, Ashe Civic
Center, \$6, 7:30 p.m.,
(336) 246-4483

Holiday Art and Craft Tour

Dec. 4-5, Spruce Pine
Toe River Arts, Local artists
showcased, (828) 682-7215

Craft Guild Annual Celebration

Dec. 5, 12, 19, Asheville
Folk Art Center, (828) 298-7928

Tour of Homes

Dec. 5, Ashe County
Holiday tour of bed and breakfast
homes, \$10, 2-6 p.m.,
(336) 246-4483

Choral Concert

Dec. 5, West Jefferson
Ashe Co. Choral Society, First
Baptist Church, 7:30 p.m.,
(336) 246-2787

Woodland Walk

Dec. 8, Belmont
Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden,
9:30 a.m., \$5, (704) 825-4490

Christmas Parade

Dec. 11, Love Valley
(704) 592-4811

Blue Ridge Music Theatre

Dec. 11, West Jefferson
Stone Mountain Travelers, Ashe
Civic Center, \$6, 7:30 p.m.,
(336) 246-4483

Children's Handmade Festival

Dec. 12, Asheville
Kids create crafts, entertainment,
Folk Art Center, (828) 298-7928

Candlelight Tours

Dec. 12, Weaverville
Zebulon B. Vance Birthplace,
(828) 645-6706

Eco-Explorers: Wildlife Christmas

Dec. 14, Pisgah Forest
Pisgah Center for Wildlife
Education, (828) 877-4423

Nature Nuts: Wildlife Christmas

Dec. 15 or 16, Pisgah Forest
Pisgah Center for Wildlife
Education, (828) 877-4423

Blue Ridge Music Theatre

Dec. 18, West Jefferson
Grayson Highlands, Ashe Civic
Center, \$6, 7:30 p.m.,
(336) 246-4483

A Christmas Carol

Dec. 18-30, Blowing Rock
Blowing Rock Stage Company,
(828) 295-9627

Moonlight Meander

Dec. 22, Belmont
Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden,
5:30 p.m., advanced registration,
\$10, (704) 825-4490

Candlelight Service

Dec. 22, Macon
Hebron UM Church, 7:30 p.m.,
(525) 257-4033

Garden Gambol

Dec. 29, Belmont
Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden,
9:30 a.m., advanced registration,
(704) 825-4490

New Year's Eve Dance

Dec. 31, West Jefferson
Greenfield Restaurant, \$75 per
person, 7 p.m., (336) 246-4483

Piedmont (Between I-77 & I-95)

From Ship to Shore

Through Dec. 5, Charlotte
Mint Museum of Art, Marine
paintings exhibit, (704) 337-2000

Contemporary Art

Through Dec. 8, Raleigh
N.C. Museum of Art,
(919) 839-6262

Arsenic and Old Lace

Through Dec. 12, Sanford
Comedy classic, Temple Theatre,
\$15 adults, \$6 children,
(919) 774-4512

The Granville-China Connection

Through Dec. 18, Oxford
Granville County Museum,
photographs and artifacts,
(919) 693-9706

Christmas Open House

Through Dec. 31, Greensboro
Blandwood Mansion, 1860
Christmas Ball theme, (336) 272-
5003, www.blandwood.org

Dale Chihuly: Installations

Through Jan. 9, Charlotte
Mint Museum of Craft + Design,
glass art exhibit, (704) 337-2097

Christmas Open House

Dec. 5, Durham
Bennett Place, 1-4 p.m.,
(919) 383-4345

Christmas Celebration

Dec. 5, Stanfield
Reed Gold Mine, Victorian
Christmas, crafts, music, tour,
(704) 721-4653

Week of Giving

Dec. 5-11, Raleigh
N.C. State Farmers Market,
(919) 733-7417

Holiday Party for Older Adults

Dec. 7, Winston-Salem
Reynolda House, 3-4 p.m., free,
(336) 725-5325

A Christmas Carol

Dec. 7-15, Raleigh
Raleigh Memorial Auditorium,
(919) 831-6058

Children's Festival of Giving and Light

Dec. 10, Winston-Salem
Reynolda House, 4 p.m., free,
(336) 725-5325

Christmas by Candlelight

Dec. 10 & 17, Durham
Evening tours of Duke Homestead,
7-9 p.m., (919) 477-5498

Christmas by Lamplight

Dec. 11, Pinnacle
19th century rural Christmas,
Horne Creek Farm, 3:30-
6:30 p.m., (336) 325-2298

Puppet Show

Dec. 11, Winston-Salem
Children's Museum at Old Salem,
11 a.m. and 3 p.m.,
(336) 721-7329

Santa Trains

Dec. 11-12 & 18-19, Spencer
N.C. Transportation Museum,
(704) 636-2889

Holiday Open House

Dec. 12, Winston-Salem
Reynolda House, 1-5 p.m., \$8
adults, free for ages under 12,
(336) 725-5325

Christmas Open House

Dec. 12, Sedalia
Charlotte Hawkins Brown
Memorial, 1-5 p.m.,
(336) 449-4846

Christmas Open House

Dec. 12, Sanford
Alston House, House in the
Horseshoe, (910) 947-2051

18th Century Christmas

Dec. 12, Pineville
James K. Polk Memorial, 1-5 p.m.,
(704) 889-7145

Christmas Open House

Dec. 12, Burlington
18th century John Allen House,
Alamance Battleground, 1-5 p.m.,
(336) 227-4785

A Christmas Memory

Dec. 17-19, Winston-Salem
Drama, Reynolda House, \$8
adults, \$5 children and students,
(336) 725-5325

Salem Christmas: A Festival Day

Dec. 18, Winston-Salem
Old Salem, 1:30-7 p.m.,
(336) 721-7300

Carolina Brass Concert

Dec. 19, Winston-Salem
Reynolda House, \$10,
(336) 725-5325

The Christmas That Almost Wasn't

Dec. 20, Winston-Salem
Family entertainment, N.C. School
of the Arts, 7 p.m., (336) 721-1945

James Taylor Concert

Dec. 31, Raleigh
Entertainment & Sports Arena,
(919) 834-4000

Antique Gun and Military Antiques Show

Jan. 1-2, Raleigh
NC State Fairgrounds, \$5 adult,
\$1 ages 7-12, (704) 282-1339

Cool East of 1-93

Festival of Trees

Through Dec. 5, Wilmington
Downtown, Christmas at the
Movies theme, for Hospice,
(910) 772-5444

Holiday Celebration

Through Dec. 22, New Bern
Tryon Palace, candlelight tours,
holiday decorations,
(800) 767-1560

A Magical Christmas

Dec. 1, Elizabeth City
COA Auditorium, Famous
People Players, 7:30 p.m.,
(800) 335-9050

Lighting Ceremony

Dec. 1, Plymouth
5:30 p.m., (252) 793-9101

Christmas Gift-a-rama

Dec. 1-31, Elizabeth City
Pasquotank Arts Council
Gallery, free, (252) 338-6455

Backstage for the Holidays

Dec. 1, 8, 15, New Bern
Tryon Palace, \$4, reservations
recommended, (252) 514-4900

Lighthouse Art Exhibition

Dec. 3-5, Plymouth
Hampton Academy,
(252) 793-9101

Candlelight Tours

Dec. 3-4, 10-11, 17-18,
New Bern Tryon Palace,
\$12 adults, \$6 students, 5-9
p.m., (252) 514-4900,
www.tryonpalace.org

The Nutcracker

Dec. 3-4, Edenton
Swain Auditorium,
(252) 482-3400,
www.edenton.com

Christmas Open House

Dec. 4, Four Oaks
Bentonville Battleground,
Civil War Christmas,
(910) 594-0789

Dinner Theater

Dec. 4 & 18, Rose Hill
Rose Hill Winery,
(800) 774-9634

Candlelight Home Tour

Dec. 4-5, Oriental
\$8, (252) 249-2859

Swan Days Festival

Dec. 4-5, Swan Quarter
Lake Mar'ain Skeet. Swans
return, tours, arts, crafts
(252) 926-8311,
www.alberta-nc.com/hyde

Christmas Homes Tour

Dec. 4-5, New Bern
Riverside neighborhood, 17
homes, arts and crafts sale,
music, (252) 635-6740

Christmas Open House

Dec. 5, Windsor
Hope mansion & King-
Bazemore house,
(252) 794-3140

Christmas Open House

Dec. 5, Wilmington
Poplar Grove Plantation,
(910) 686-9518

Christmas Open House

Dec. 5, Creswell
Somerset Place,
(252) 797-4560

Festival of Trees

Dec. 5-7, Lumberton
Holiday Inn, for Hospice,
crafts, food, fun,
(910) 671-5577

Christmas Piano Concert

Dec. 6, New Bern
Tryon Palace Auditorium, free,
(252) 514-4900,
www.tryonpalace.org

Air Force Band Christmas Concert

Dec. 6, Elizabeth City
COA Auditorium, free, 6:30 &
8:30 p.m., (800) 335-9050

General Restoration Workshop

Dec. 7, Elizabeth City
Museum of the Albermarle,
admission charged,
(252) 335-1453

Christmas Candlelight Tours

Dec. 7 & 9, Fremont
19th century Christmas,
Aycok Birthplace,
(919) 242-5581

Bethlehem Walk

Dec. 9-11, Arapahoe
15-minute tours, Free Will
Baptist Church, 7-9 p.m.,
(252) 745-5206

Choir Christmas Concert

Dec. 10, Elizabeth City
COA Auditorium, \$2,
(800) 335-9050

Caroling on Courthouse Green

Dec. 10, Edenton
Chowan County Courthouse,
6 p.m., (252) 482-2637,
www.edenton.com

Story time with Santa

Dec. 10, Plymouth
Winter Wonderland (old Allied
Building), (252) 793-9101

Christmas Celebration

Dec. 10-11, Edenton
Early 18th- and 19th century
holidays, Iredell House, Cupola
House, Barker House, 1-5 p.m.,
(252) 482-2637,
www.edenton.com

Christmas Walk

Dec. 11, Beaufort
2-4:30 p.m., (252) 728-5225

Christmas Parade

Dec. 11, Plymouth
Water Street, 3:30 p.m.,
(252) 793-9101

Parade on the Roanoke

Dec. 11, Plymouth
Water Street, 5:30 p.m.,
(252) 793-9101

Street Fair

Dec. 11, Plymouth
Water Street, crafts and food,
(252) 793-9101

Christmas Parade

Dec. 11, Edenton
On Broad Street, 11 a.m.,
(252) 482-3400

Christmas Decorations

Dec. 11-12, Halifax
Restored 18th- and 19th-century
structures decorated for holi-
days, (252) 583-7191

Historic Homes Tour

Dec. 12, Plymouth
Towns of Plymouth, Roper and
Creswell, (252) 793-2175

Christmas Open House

Dec. 12, Bath
Palmer-Marsh House, Bonner
House, Van Der Veer House,
historic Bath visitors center,
(252) 923-3971

Christmas Choral Concert

Dec. 18, New Bern
Meredith College Girls Chorale,
Tryon Palace Auditorium, 2
p.m., free, (252) 514-4900,
www.tryonpalace.org

The Messiah Sing

Dec. 19, Edenton
Edenton Baptist Church choir,
Swain Auditorium, 6 p.m.,
(252) 482-3400
www.edenton.com

New Year's Charity Ball

Dec. 31, Elizabeth City
ECSU Kermit E. White Center,
(252) 335-5816

Deadlines: Feb. Dec. 22

A phone number must be included with event
listings in order to be published.

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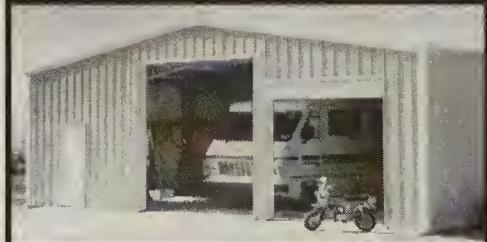
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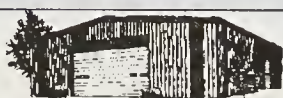
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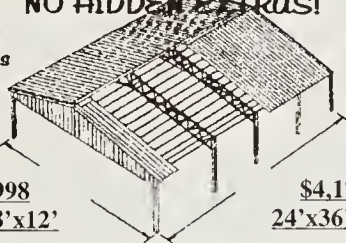
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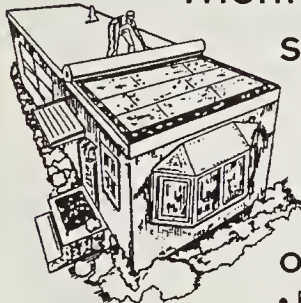
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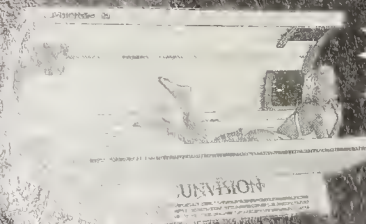
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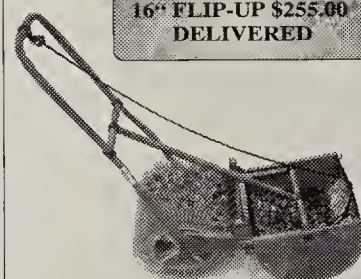
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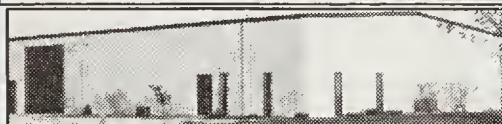
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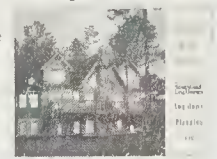
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Use the blocks below to complete the sentence.

A	B	C	D	E	G	H	I	M	L
u	n	s	c	r	a	m	b	l	e

N	O	S	C	W	B	L
t	h	i	s	o	n	e

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Timing Is All

The Christmas our granddaughter Hannah was 3, she got a little push-button musical instrument from Santa Claus. One of the tunes in the music book provided with the toy is "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

The keys are numbered, the words are numbered, and when you push the numbers at appropriate intervals, you hear the tune to "Rudolph." Pushing the keys numbered 5 6 5 3 8 6 5 gives you the first seven notes of the song.

Reading music and playing a musical instrument are two of many things I can't do. But a grandfather is reluctant to admit fallibility, so by personal request if not popular demand, Grandpa, peering through his bifocals, slowly and deliberately picked out the first seven notes: 5 6 5 3 8 6 5.

Imagine my surprise when the tune that emerged, note by note, was "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me." (Try humming "Rudolph" real slowly, and you'll realize what happened.)

Gene Autry made thousands of dollars as the composer of "Rudolph." He should have been ashamed of himself, if all he really did was pick up the pace of "Rock of Ages."

Which goes to prove, as the saying goes and my playing shows, "timing is all."

With a bit more practice I will be playing accompaniment this Christmas while Hannah sings lustily, "Then one *froggy* Christmas eve, Santa came to say . . ."

Math Words



MUSIC

PIANO

I

CI

CM

"I" can get MUSIC out of this PIANO. Can you?

Letters have been substituted for digits in this division problem. Repeated letters stand for repeated digits.

Can you replace the digits? Hint: Notice that $I^2 = N$.

CA

CA

N

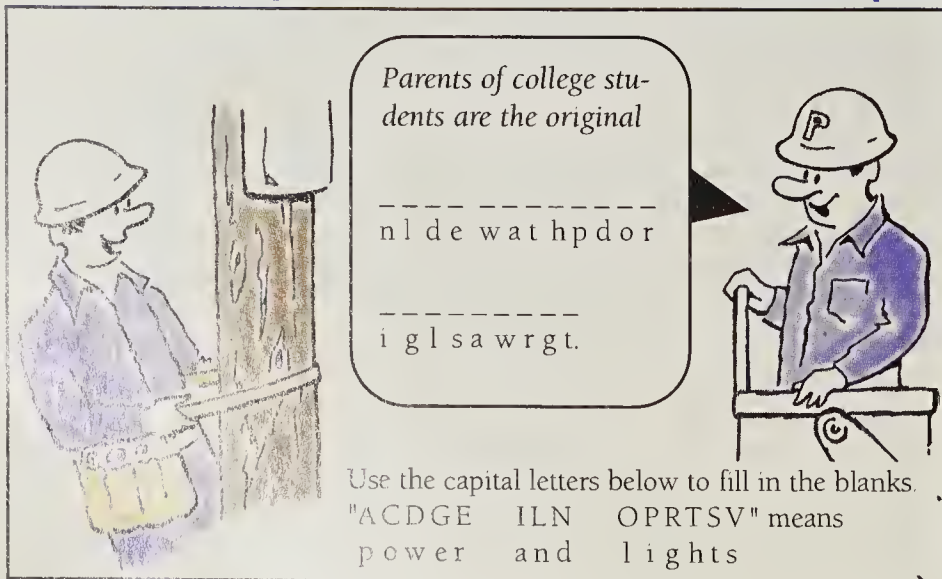
N

O

O

Percy P. Cassidy

Poles Apart



Answers on page 29

EMC's and 4-H tee off for youth

Over 100 golfers gathered at Grandover Golf Resort & Conference Center in Greensboro, NC on October 2, 1999 for the 3rd Annual EMC State 4-H Clover Classic to raise funds for North Carolina's 4-H Youth Development program. This year, ten county 4-H programs in partnership with their regional cooperatives held local tournaments that culminated in this statewide tournament, sponsored by the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC).

After a round of golf, the golfers and their guests relaxed and shopped the silent auction at an awards dinner at Grandover Resort in Greensboro. The proceeds raised will go to benefit teen programs including a national public service advertising campaign, Youth Voices and Action, endorsed by the National Ad Council to encourage young people to get involved in their communities through service. Additional proceeds will go towards award programs that provide recognition, travel opportunities, and scholarships to 4-H members as well as youth leadership awards.

The ten local tournaments have raised over \$40,000 this year to help fund programs for the local counties. Counties use this money to help fund intra-state exchanges, offset project and curriculum costs, scholarships for camp, and many other program needs. The counties participating in tournaments include Onslow, Edgecombe, Halifax, Sampson, Harnett, Cumberland, Pitt, Greene, Lee, Pasquotank, Union, Warren, Wake, Vance, and Franklin. The first local tournament began over ten years ago, and these have become major fundraisers for local 4-H programs.

"Grand patron" for the EMC State 4-H Clover Classic was the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation. "Golf patrons" include regional cooperatives who partnered in local tournaments and corporate sponsors. These include Jones-Onslow EMC, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Halifax EMC, South River EMC, Pitt-Greene EMC, Central EMC, Albemarle EMC, Union EMC and Wake EMC. Other "golf patrons" include Carolina Farm Credit Service, Moore & Van Allen, PLLC, Arthur Andersen LLP, NC 4-H Development Fund, Golden Sky Systems, National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC), Ewell/Cardinal Travel, and CP&L.

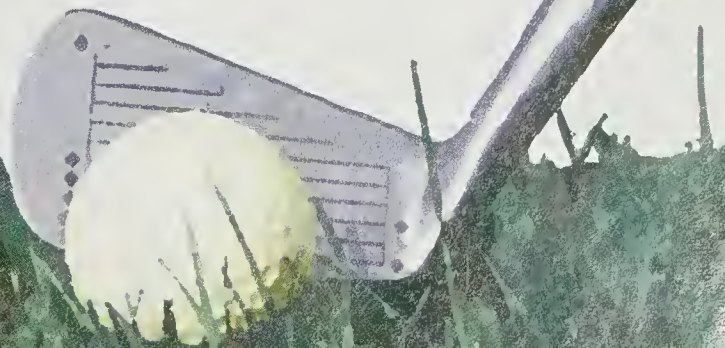
The North Carolina 4-H Youth Development program serves over 200,000 youth, ages 5-19, in North Carolina and utilizes over 20,000 adult volunteers annually. Local 4-H programs are supported with resources from the Cooperative Extension system within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University and North Carolina A & T State University. Four-H has offices in all 100 counties plus the Cherokee Reservation. For more information about the 4-H Youth Development Program, contact your local Cooperative Extension office or the state 4-H office at (919) 515-3242; mailing address: NCSU Box 7606, Raleigh, NC, 27695-7606.



1999 EMC State 4-H Clover Classic Winners and Winner of the Central EMC/Lee County local tournament (from left): Sammy Williamson, Kenny Furr, Ken Boyce, and Donnie Medlin



The 1999 recipient of the President's Cup of Excellence, South River EMC, was cited for their three-year partnership with local 4-H programs. In addition to having full tournaments, South River's tournament has raised over \$7500 each year for three county programs. Accepting on behalf of South River from NCEMC's CEO, Chuck Terrill (left) is Danny Wolf. Also pictured is Bob Rube, 1999-2000 President of the North Carolina 4-H Development Fund and President of ITG Travel.



By Hank Smith

As autumn gives way to winter, cooler weather slows outside gardening activities, but there still are many chores to be accomplished during mild periods.

Curb the urge to prune aggressive shrubs that have grown overly large for their allotted space. Consider replacing with lower and slower growing specimens. If a plant has become ungainly, delay pruning until spring. Winter pruning sometimes encourages tender growth that can be killed by later freezes.

Plant bare-root, balled-and-burlapped, container-grown nursery stock during this season. At higher altitudes, wait until mild weather in spring. Paraffin-dipped plants such as roses should be shaded after going in the ground. Strong rays of the sun melt the wax – underneath often are tender leaves and stems. Wax should weather away before strong spring growth appears.

Poinsettias: Look ahead to next Christmas

As blooms pass maturity, leaves and bracts will fall. When about half have fallen away, gradually reduce the amount of water given the plant until soil is completely dry. The plant now is in a state of dormancy. Store in a dark room or basement at 50 degrees; withhold water. When new shoots begin to show, or when night temperatures are above 50 degrees outdoors, begin watering again. Use a soluble complete fertilizer (such as 20-20-20) twice a month at manufacturer's recommended rate. Cut back stems to 4 to 6 inches. Re-pot in new porous soil that allows free drainage. Place soil so as to leave an 1-inch space below rim of pot for watering. When night temperatures outside are above 50 degrees, place plant outdoors in a hold dug in a sunny location. Line bottom of planting hole with about 2 inches of gravel to insure pot does not stand in a puddle of water. Then place the pot in the hole, fill to the top of the pot with soil. Turn pot regularly to prevent rooting through drainage holes. A quarter turn each week also assures that plant receives sunlight all around, resulting in even growth. About once a month, pinch back terminal growth. Leave two fully matured leaves beneath each removal. Continue pinching until mid-August.

Early winter watering

The havoc reaped from frozen ground, winter winds and burning sun can be the garden's greatest problems in preventing a healthy and trouble-free landscape next year. Plants are winter-killed by damage due to a lack of water at the root level. Dead plants in spring are obvious symptoms of winter injury. Winter winds and sun often cause brown leaves or large dead areas in evergreens such as junipers and yews, as well as

rhododendrons and other broad-leaved evergreens. Only a short time need be spent to prepare deciduous and evergreen plants to withstand winter damage. Give all plants a good soaking with the garden hose if rainfall is scant.

Moving established plants

When moving older established plants, prune away about one-third of the branches to compensate unavoidable root damage. Always cut back to a growth bud (in the angle of the stem and a leaf). Make a sloping cut just above the bud to prevent winter moisture from collecting on the cut, and serving as a port of entry for diseases. Pruning at planting time helps offset shock to root system.

Houseplant potting soil

A complete soil mix is not necessary, but plain garden soil is not enough. A suitable mixture includes equal parts of a good garden soil, moist peat moss and sand or perlite. Such a mixture is excellent for most houseplants. An excess may come in handy for repotting or planting.

Pruning pyracantha

Most pyracanthas when purchased have a tall main stem. To induce desired base branching, cut this stem back one-half. In the spring, when new growth is 8 to 10 inches long, cut out tips to encourage branching. This will establish a compact, base-branching plant. Pyracanthas tend to produce long, tall stems. This can be checked by pinching or cutting away tips of new growth during the growing season. The result is compact growth with no loss of berries. Overgrown plants can be rejuvenated by cutting back all stems to within 1 foot of ground level. Do this in late winter, before new growth resumes in spring. However, this severe pruning results in a loss of berries for one year. It is advisable to give plants a lighter pruning each year.

Santa's Christmas Tree

Use a Styrofoam "Oasis cone" from a craft shop to create the base. Insert nails to weigh down cone, and soak it in water. Spray paint the twigs of arborvitae green to extend their life. Insert short stems of carnations and chrysanthemums along with clusters of dried small yellow strawflowers from florists or craft shop. Tape stems to toothpicks before inserting into the tree so they stay secure. Add loops of small gold beads for trimming. Gently pour water from the top of the tree daily. (The Styrofoam will moisten all the way to the base.)



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Wondering what to do with turkey leftovers this year?

Here's a delicious dish for you to try.



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Turkey 'N' Stuffing Pie

- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 cup chicken broth
- ½ cup butter or margarine, melted
- 5 cups herb-seasoned stuffing

Filling:

- 1 can (4 ounces) mushroom stems and pieces, drained
- ½ cup chopped onion
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 3 cups cubed cooked turkey
- 1 cup frozen peas
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh parsley
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 jar (12 ounces) turkey gravy
- 5 slices process American cheese, cut into strips

In a large bowl, combine the egg, broth and butter. Add stuffing; mix well. Pat onto the bottom and up the sides of a greased 9-inch pie plate; set aside. In a skillet, saute mushrooms and onion in butter until tender. Sprinkle with flour; mix well. Add the turkey, peas, parsley, Worcestershire sauce and thyme; mix well. Stir in gravy. Bring to a boil; boil and stir for 2 minutes. Spoon into the crust. Bake at 375 degrees for 20 minutes. Arrange cheese strips in a lattice pattern over filling. Bake 5-10 minutes longer or until the cheese is melted. Yield: 4-6 servings.

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The "Learn Not to Burn" program directed by the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center sends specialists to make presentations to schools, fire departments, senior citizens, Jaycees and other service groups. Many serious injuries and fatalities are prevented each year because children and adults learn not to burn.

Listed here are the major donors to the golf tournament. The cooperatives also are very grateful to the many other businesses and individuals who contributed to the success of the tournament.



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